

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 222136  
ORIGIN HA-05

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/035 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN:MM  
APPROVED BY HA:PDERIAN  
EA:MR. OAKLEY  
HA:MR. SIEVERTS

-----055702 010024Z /14

O R 312315Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA BY UNITED NATIONS HIGH  
COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

1. REQUEST US MISSION PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO HARTLING  
FROM ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN:

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED TEXT: BEFORE YOU DEPART ON YOUR VISIT  
TO SOUTHEAST ASIA, I WANTED TO EXTEND TO YOU MY BEST WISHES  
FOR A SUCCESSFUL MISSION, IN ALL ITS ASPECTS. WE HERE IN  
WASHINGTON WILL BE FOLLOWING YOUR TRAVELS WITH INTEREST, AND  
I HOPE YOU WILL LET US KNOW IF WE CAN ASSIST YOU IN ANY WAY.

3. I HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER IT HELPFUL IF I SHARE OUR  
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THOUGHTS WITH YOU ON THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM. IN  
THAILAND, I KNOW YOU WILL BE DISCUSSING WITH THE ROYAL THAI  
GOVERNMENT, AMONG OTHER MATTERS, THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE  
LOCAL SETTLEMENT OF SOME OF THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES. WE,  
TOO, HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT WITH THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THAILAND AND ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A FURTHER,  
MORE SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR THE POSSIBLE INITIATION OF A PILOT

PROJECT OF THIS NATURE.

4. ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL CONCERNS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER NATIONS WHO HAVE BEEN TAKING REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT MIGHT STOP THEIR OWN PROGRAMS IF THAILAND BEGINS TO LEGALLY RESETTLE THESE REFUGEES. IN FACT, I BELIEVE THAT THE OPPOSITE RESULT WOULD BE MORE LIKELY; THAT IS, THAT OTHER COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, WOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE THEIR RESETTLEMENT PROGRAMS IF THAILAND IS SEEN ALSO TO BE TAKING SOME OF THESE REFUGEES FOR LOCAL RESETTLEMENT.

5. ONE WAY TO GET AT THIS PROBLEM WHICH WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE THAI AUTHORITIES WOULD BE TO RESTRICT THE CHANGE OF LEGAL STATUS FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ONLY TO THOSE REFUGEES INCLUDED IN THE THAI PROGRAM. OBVIOUSLY, A CHANGE OF LEGAL STATUS FOR THOSE REFUGEES EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN THAILAND WOULD BE AN ESSENTIAL PART OF LOCAL SETTLEMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE REFUGEES EXPECTED TO BE RESETTLED ELSEWHERE COULD PROPERLY CONTINUE TO BE REGARDED AS HOLDING THE MORE LIMITED LEGAL STATUS INVOLVED IN TEMPORARY ASYLUM.

6. YOU MAY BE SURE THAT, IN ALL OF OUR DISCUSSIONS, WE HAVE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF PROCEEDING WITH LOCAL SETTLEMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF YOUR OFFICE IN ORDER TO AS-

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SURE THAT THERE IS A COORDINATED EFFORT WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ON THIS PROJECT. IN THE CASE OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES OR POSSIBLE PILOT PROJECTS ON WHICH WE MIGHT COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THE GOVERNMENT ON A BILATERAL BASIS, OR THROUGH YOUR OFFICE, WHICHEVER IS PREFERRED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT IN EITHER CASE, IT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO HAVE LESLIE GOODYEAR AND HIS STAFF CLOSELY INVOLVED IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT WHAT IS DONE IS TRULY OF USE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BROADER PROJECT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF YOUR OFFICE.

7. WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY OF HEARING YOUR THOUGHTS IN THE MEETING AT KUALA LUMPUR AFTER YOU HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE THE PROBLEMS IN THAILAND AND MALAYSIA FIRSTHAND. WITH THE SHARP INCREASE IN THE OUTFLOW OF REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM AND THE CHANGED MAKEUP OF THAT CASELOAD, IT BECOMES ALL THE MORE NECESSARY TO SEEK INCREASED AND BROADER PARTICIPATION BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IN DEALING WITH THIS SERIOUS HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM. I HAVE NO PRECONCEPTION ABOUT HOW BEST TO STIMULATE THIS, AND WILL WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT. I HOPE THAT IT WILL

BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE A THOROUGH AND OPEN DISCUSSION ON THIS SUBJECT IN KUALA LUMPUR, AND THAT THE DESIRABILITY OF A FOLLOW-ON INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF SOME SORT WILL ALSO BE CONSIDERED.

8. AMBASSADOR ROBERT MILLER WILL BE HEADING OUR GROUP IN KUALA LUMPUR, AND I WILL ALSO BE SENDING SHEP LOWMAN OUT FROM WASHINGTON. I HOPE YOU FIND IT A USEFUL GET TOGETHER.

9. ANOTHER SUBJECT OF CONCERN TO US IS FAMILY REUNIFICATIONS FOR RELATIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN VIETNAM. SINCE YOUR DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT WITH FRANK SIEVERTS IN JUNE, THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF DEVELOPMENTS WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUGGEST THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE VIETNAMESE MAY BE PREPARED TO PERMIT A LARGER NUMBER OF FAMILY REUNIONS. FRANK DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH VU HOANG, THE DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS IN HANOI, DURING THEIR MEETING AT OUR MIA CENTER IN HAWAII JULY 11-14. SENATOR KENNEDY'S DELEGATION RAISED THE SAME SUBJECT IN THEIR VISIT TO VIETNAM, WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEPARTURE OF SOME 30 CHILDREN AND WIVES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS. THIS DELEGATION ALSO RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM VU HOANG AND OTHER OFFICIALS THAT FURTHER FAMILY REUNIONS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. CONGRESSMAN G.V. MONTGOMERY'S DELEGATION WHICH VISITED VIETNAM AND LAOS AUGUST 20-25 ALSO DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES.

10) WE HAVE GIVEN THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES A REVISED LIST INCLUDING SEVERAL HUNDRED CASES OF CHILDREN, WIVES, AND FIANCEES OF AMERICAN CITIZENS STILL IN VIETNAM. THIS LIST SUPPLEMENTS ONE PREPARED BY THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND TRANSMITTED PREVIOUSLY BY THE ICRC. THE REVISED, MORE COMPLETE LIST WAS GIVEN TO VU HOANG BY FRANK SIEVERTS IN JULY, AND IT IS THIS LIST OF CASES WE BELIEVE THE VIETNAMESE ARE NOW WORKING ON.

11) IT IS OUR HOPE THAT YOU WILL FIND THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THIS SUBJECT WITH THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES, TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO PROCEED RAPIDLY TO PROCESS THESE CASES, WITH A MINIMUM OF RED TAPE AND DELAY. YOU COULD TELL THE VIETNAMESE THAT THE RETURN OF THE CHILDREN AND THEIR MOTHERS WITH SENATOR KENNEDY'S GROUP WAS WARMLY AND FAVORABLY RECEIVED IN THE U.S. THIS RETURN HAS RAISED THE HOPES OF OTHER FAMILIES THAT THEIR RELATIVES ALSO MAY BE ABLE TO LEAVE VIETNAM AND COME TO LAOS.

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12) IF CONVENIENT IT MAY BE HELPFUL IF YOU OR YOUR ASSOCIATES COORDINATE YOUR EFFORTS ON THIS SUBJECT ALSO WITH THE ICRC DELEGATION IN VIETNAM. OUR COMMON OBJECTIVE SURELY, IS TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THIS HUMANITARIAN MATTER IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY.

13) IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE APPRECIATE YOUR MANY EFFORTS, AND THE READINESS OF YOUR ORGANIZATION TO ASSIST WITH AIR TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CHILDREN AND MOTHERS WHO DEPARTED WITH SENATOR KENNEDY'S GROUP. AGAIN, IF THERE IS ANY WAY WE CAN ASSIST YOU DURING YOUR TRIP, I HOPE YOU WILL LET ME KNOW. SINCERELY, PATT DERIAN. END UNCLAS. TEXT.

14) PLEASE GIVE COPY OF LETTER ALSO TO DARRYL HAN OF UNHCR, WHO IS ACCOMPANYING HARTLING AND WHO WILL LEAVE GENEVA AT MIDDAY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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